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- 2 -

SUMMARY

The initial impression that Stalin's BOLSHEVIK article on economic problems of Socialism in the USSR represented the "last word" of a controversy on basic economic issues that had presumably been raging within the Party hierarchy was to some extent supported by Suslov's attack on Fedoseyev late in December. It is further heightened by a more recent attack (Sobolev in PRAVDA 12 Jan.) on 3 leading Soviet economists whose "subjectivist" interpretation of economic laws is said to smack of the Voznessensky brand of anti-Marxism. That these economists are not alone in their heretic views is hinted in a Kurbatov article published in the January issue of KOMMUNIST (the new name for BOLSHEVIK). The two books on economic planning published in 1950 and 1951 by one of the accused economists, Gladkov, had been endorsed by Scientific Council (Uchennyi Sovet) of the Institute of Economics of the USSR Academy of Sciences, and that, it is claimed, throws an unfavorable light on that learned body. The warning implicit in Sobolev's and Kurbatov's lengthy dissertations on the new economic "line" is that the remaining followers of the defeated Voznessensky camp had better begin to "cry hosanna" for the latest thesis by Stalin or else.

PRAVDA's editorial blast (13 Jan.) against the Jewish physicians whose "plot" to kill Soviet leaders was "belatedly" discovered by the security authorities was duly echoed by all the central and regional papers. That flare-up, lasting about a week, has been followed up by an intensive radio and press campaign for greater political vigilance against "pernicious" (vrednie) political influences allegedly infiltrating from abroad and disseminated by the "hidden enemies" (skrytie vragi) within the country. In an editorial diatribe against the lack of security consciousness on 17 January LITERARY GAZETTE implies that the Jews are not the only enemies of the State and refers the reader to some of the books by Adzhayev, Loznevoy and Alexis Tolstoy for a further acquaintance with "zealous vigilance" (revnivaya bditelnost). The same issue of the paper carries an article by Terteryan referring to Ilya Ehrenburg in highly flattering terms. The noble activities of I. Ehrenburg, "one of the outstanding Soviet writers, ... have won him the affection and respect of millions of readers in our country and abroad."

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